

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the engines of our economy, and their success is critical to our economic recovery and long-term economic growth.

Sixty percent of new jobs are created by small businesses, and over half of this country's economic growth since World War II has been from innovation and new technologies. We can and should empower the businesses and entrepreneurs who make our economy go by creating favorable conditions for businesses to start, to expand, and to put people back to work.

That's why I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act designed to increase small business lending, help small businesses hire new workers and expand their operations. When I talk to small business owners back home in Missouri, the number one issue they identify as an obstacle to hiring people is access to credit.

We must continue to focus on promoting our small businesses to grow this economy and to get people back to work.

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